

BITS & PCES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PACIFIC COAST ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Editor: Suzanne Ubick

PCES -- 2005 Spring Field Day West Point, California

Date: May 14 & 15 (Saturday & Sunday). Plan to arrive at about noon or as soon thereafter as is convenient. Paul Arnaud will leave on Monday, May 16, if you can stay over Sunday night too.

Location: 19844 Highway 26; 2.5 miles SW of West Point on Highway 26, Calaveras Co., Calif. This location is about 150 miles E of San Francisco in the historic Mother Lode country. Estimated driving time is 3.5-4 hours.

Directions: From the SF Bay area take Hwy 580 to Stockton. At Manteca, or Stockton, travel east to Hwy 99. Head north on Hwy 99 to the Hwy 88 E (Waterloo) exit and head east toward the town of Jackson. You will pass the towns of Lockeford & Clements. About 2 miles east of Clements Hwy 88 makes a sharp turn to the left. Continue on Hwy 88 to the town of Jackson. As you drive through Jackson Hwy 88 makes a sharp left turn -- do not take this turn, but continue straight on Hwy 49 to the town of Mokelumne Hill. At Mokelumne Hill you will come to the intersection with Hwy 26, turn left on Hwy 26 heading for West Point, which is about 15 miles ahead. After you cross the South Fork of the Mokelumne River, continue for about 2 miles until you see a conspicuous sign for "Gringo Chucks." Turn right on the driveway along side Gringo Chucks and in a few hundred feet you will be at our location.

Area Description: We will be in the Sierra Foothills. The area is a biologically diverse ecotone with montane mixed coniferous forest, chaparral, and oak woodland. The plant diversity is paralleled by the arthropod diversity. Our location includes a small pond, and we are located between the Middle and South Forks of the nearby Mokelumne River. Our site was a gold mine during the Gold Rush. There are old orchards, mixed coniferous forest, a large diversity of oaks, meadows, and grasslands, and probably wild flowers. Deer are numerous so one may encounter ticks, and at dusk mosquitoes may be out. The weather should be pleasant this time of year. Days should be mild to warm. Evenings should be moderate as well, but may be cool after sunset. Rain is very unlikely.

Kinds of Collecting: It is spring in the foothills, and insects should be abundant and diverse. Definitely plan on collecting with aerial nets, night lights, aquatic nets, and flight traps, and by log- and rock rolling.

Facilities: There is an old mountain house available, with drinking water, restroom, and kitchen facilities. It provides support for mounting and studying insects, and a retreat if the weather becomes unfavorable. The town of West Point is 2.5 miles away. In town there are three country stores, two restaurants, and a gas station. If you need to do shopping the supermarkets in Jackson are excellent and comprehensive.

Things to Bring: Make sure to bring your usual camping and collecting gear. You will need a sleeping bag, eating utensils, insect repellent, sunscreen, a flashlight, food (except for Saturday dinner), and beverages.

Some Tentative Activities:

- Homemade stew feed (Saturday night) (Madeline Arnaud)
- Informal workshop on insect photography (bring your photo equipment) (Warren Savary)
- Scorpion hunting during early evening (bring BLB black light lamp if you have one) (Warren Savary)
- Spider hunt (bring headlight) (Darrell Ubick)
- Night light trapping (Stan Williams)
- Orthoptera hunt (Vincent Lee and Jett Chinn)
- Demonstration of use of insect flight traps (Paul Arnaud)

RSVP and More Information:

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